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(54) Title: S-BLOCKED GLUTATHIONES

#### (57) Abstract

This invention concerns glutathione derivatives, and in particular their application in the suppression of pathogens. It has been discovered that certain glutathione derivatives are effective inhibitors of the growth of a range of cancer cell types, and certain microorganisms. According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a glutathione having structure (I). Compounds based upon this general structure are disclosed which are active against parasitic infectious agents such as T. Brucei and L. Donovani. Further compounds are disclosed which are active against cancer cells.

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#### S-Blocked Glutathiones

This invention concerns glutathione derivatives, and in particular their application in the suppression of pathogens.

Illness may be caused by many agents. Bacterial infections are caused by micro-organisms which

multiply rapidly and cause a number of diseases.

Parasites are organisms which live in or on a host and feed off the host. Cancers are evident by the uncontrolled multiplication of cells in the body. The cancer may be localized, such as breast cancer, or systemic such as leukaemia.

The treatment of the illnesses caused by the aforementioned agents has been the subject of much research, and many different approaches. One approach involves targeting the cells which cause the disease and destroying them or disrupting their ability to multiply.

For such an approach to be successful the agent or

drug used to attack the diseased cells should not harm

significantly other healthy cells. Thus such an

approach requires an understanding and identification of the biochemical processes carried out in cells, and the targeting and disruption of specific processes which are unique to the diseased cells.

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Such an approach involves the use of the cytotoxic compound methylgloxal which is produced in the cells of certain organisms. A build up of methylgloxal in the cell up to cytotoxic levels will, of course, result in cell death. By inducing a build up of methylgloxal, significant growth inhibition effects have been seen in tumour cells, Escherichia coli, Saccharomycescerevisise and Leishmania donovani.

The build up of methylgloxal may be promoted by the inhibition of glyoxalase I (GLI) enzyme. A wide range of inhibitors of GLI are known and these include substrate or product analogues and mechanism-based inhibitors.

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Glutathione (γ-glutamylcysteinylglycine) fulfils a variety of roles vital to life processes. It functions as a co-enzyme, co-substrate, substrate or part of the substrate architecture. S-blocked glutathiones have been shown to be potent inhibitors of GLI in vitro and this has led to a search for particular S-blocked

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glutathiones which may have therapeutic effect.

A general procedure for the preparation of the monoglycyl and dimethyl ester and amide derivatives of S-(4-bromobenzyl)glutathione has been described by the inventor in Biochem. J. (1990) 271, pp167-169.

The inventor has discovered that certain glutathione derivatives are effective inhibitors of the growth of a range of cancer cell types, and certain micro-organisms.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a glutathione having the following structure:-

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Where R1-R4 may be configured as shown in the following:

	LABEL	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	MW
5	CD4		B r	ОМе	OMe	638. 5
	CD6	CH <sub>3</sub> CO	THE RESERVE TO THE RE	ОН	ОН	545
	CD7		8 !	ОМе	ОН	624

CD8		CH <sub>2</sub> -COOEt	ОН	OH	527
CD10			OMe	OMe	692
LABEL	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	MW
CD13	H	NO 2	ОН	ОН	

BNSDOCID: <WO\_\_\_\_\_9809986A1\_I\_>

CD16	СНО	Br	ОН	ОН	504
CD17	C = 0	B r	NH <sub>2</sub>	ОН	576
CD19		NO <sub>2</sub>	OMe	ОН	621
CD20		NO <sub>2</sub>	ОМе	OMe	635

CD42	NO <sub>2</sub>	OMe	OH	708
CD43	NO <sub>2</sub>	OMe	OMe	722
CD46	-CH <sub>2</sub> -CO <sub>2</sub> Et	OMe	OMe	555

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CD48 CH <sub>3</sub> CO		OMe	ОН	556	
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CD7 has been found to be an effective inhibitor of Trypanosomiasis and in particular T. Brucei S247. This compound is also active against Malaria. One particular advantage of this compound is that it is effective at inhibiting the cell growth of the organism without being toxic to red blood cells.

10 CD13 is effective at the inhibition of growth of cancer cells, and in particular leukaemia, breast cancer or tumour cells.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a glutathione having the following general formula:-

5 Wherein R1
is:
H O C O H O

 $CH_2CH=C$ 

10  $CH_3$   $CH_2CH_2CH=C(CH_3)CH_2CH=C(CH_3)_2$ 

TRANS TRANS TRANS

S-(farnesyl)glutathione CD37

The aforementioned glutathione derivatives may each be provided in pharmaceutically acceptable compositions for delivery to the human or animal body.

In another aspect of the invention there is provided the use of any one of the foregoing compounds in the treatment of cancer, or parasitic cellular

20 infestation.

In particular, according to one embodiment of the present invention there is provided the use of CD13 and derivatives thereof in the treatment of cancer.

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According to another embodiment there is provided the

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use of CD19 and/or CD20 in the treatment of a infection by a parasitic micro-organism.

In particular Cd19 is highly effective at low concentrations against T. brucei (African sleeping sickness), while CD 20 has no toxicity to red blood cells. CD20 also has good activity against other parasites such as L.donovani (oriental sore, Kala-azar).

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According to another aspect of the invention there is provided the use of CD7 against malaria.

According to yet another aspect of the invention there is provided the use of any one of compounds CD26-CD37 against cancer.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided the use of CD13, CD4, CD6 and CD 37 against cancer, and in particular breast cancer, and more particularly MCF7 cells.

Following is a description by way of example only of methods of putting the present invention into effect and examples demonstrating the activity of compounds according to the present invnetion. The drawing is a

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graphic representation of the results of the in vivo test described in example 1.

General method of production.

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 $GSH + RX \rightarrow GSR$ 

Reduced glutathione (1g, 3.26mM) is dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>0 (5ml) and 2M NaOH (3.3ml, 6.6mM) with stirring at room temperature and under a nitrogen atmosphere. Ethanol (5-15ml) is then added to the cloud point whereafter RX (for example, aryl halide, 3.5mM dissolved in ethanol) is added portion-wise over about 30 minutes. The reaction is left to stir for 20 hours under nitrogen.

If precipitation occurs during addition either more ethanol or more water is added to dissolve the material. At the end the reaction the acidity of the mixture is adjusted to p 3.5 with 2M HCl and the mixture chilled to effect precipitation. The precipitate is then filtered, washed with water, dried and recrystallized from Ethanol/H,0.

25 <u>Pharmaceutical activity:</u>
<u>Example 1</u>

Glutathione CD13 according to the present invention was tested in order to ascertain its inhibitory characteristics with respect to various cancer cell lines.

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The compound was introduced to cell cultures and the concentration of cancer cells formed over a period of time was measured using standard techniques. The following table indicates the results for CD13 and another glutathione derivative "control" by way of comparison:-

	Leukaemia lines		Tumour	Breast
			cells	Cancer
				cells
	WEH1 3B	K562	MAC 15A	MCF7
Compound	conc. µg/ml	conc. μg/ml	ml) وير	cońc. mg/mj
Control	36	54	>100	>100
CD13	3.4	2.5	0.43	0.48

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CD13 was tested in vivo on rodents with MAC 15A S/C Tumours by giving them a 20 mg/Kg daily dose for five days. The treatment resulted in a reduction in tumour size and a 45% reduction in tumour volume after 4 days. The effect of CD 13 in the above test is shown

in the graph of the drawings.

#### Example 2

- The glutathione derivatives CD7 and CD 10 according to the present invention were tested for their activity against the parasites T.Brucei S247, L.donovani and T. cruzi.
- The following table shows the mean estimation of growth of T.Brucei S247 in a 72 hour incubation in the presence of a control glutathione derivative and CD10 in various concentrations:-

Compound	MIC @ concentration (µM)					
	30	10	3	1		
control	++++	++++	++++	++++		
CD7	0	++++	++++	++++		
CD10	0	++++	++++	++++		

20

The forgoing table shows that Compounds CD7 and CD10 exhibit complete inhibition of the growth of T.Brucei S247 over the specified period at concentrations of 30  $\mu M_{\odot}$ 

The following table shows the results of the inhibition of the growth of L. donovani and T. Cruzi by compounds CD7, CD10 according to the present invention and "control" by way of comparison, at various concentrations.

Compound	% Inhi	% Inhibition of			% Inhibition of		
	L.donovani @ conc.			T. Cruzi @ conc.			
	90 30 10			90	30	10	
	( µM )	( µM )	( MM )	(µM)	( µM )	( µM)	
control	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CD7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CD10	T	T	0	T	T	T/0	

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The foregoing shows that compound CD10 shows good activity in the inhibition of growth of both L. donvani and T. cruzi.

#### Example 3:

20 Activity of compounds CD16-CD20 in Vitro.

Compound	% inhibition @ concn. (µ M)

	30	10	3	1
CD16				
T.cruzi	11.0	0	0	0
CD17		·		
T.cruzi	7.0	4.0	0	0
CD19				
T.brucei	100	100	33.2	0
CD20				
L.donovani	13.5	1.9	0	0
T.brucei	100	64.5	0	0

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## Example 4:

Compound CD48 was tested for its activity against cancer, with the following results for a range of cancer types:

Cancer	Human Ovarian carcinoma	Human lung carcinoma	Human colon carcinoma	Human myclogenious leukaemia	Mouse lymphoid neoplasm
Designa tion	A2780	H-460	BE	K562	P388

·	μМ	μМ	μМ	μМ	μМ
CD48	>50	>50	27.1	16.7	31.7

### Example 5:

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Compounds CD4, CD6, and CD 37 have also been found to be effective against various cancers, including breast cancer.

#### 10 Example 6:

Compounds CD42 to 48 were tested for their activity against various parasitic infection agents and the results are shown in the following table:

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Comp		IBITION			%INHII	BITION	OF L.	
	30µM	10µМ	3µМ	1μΜ	30µM	10μΜ	ЗμМ	lμM
CD42	100	100	0	0	1.2	0	0	0
CD43	100	100	0	0	<b>T</b> /O	0	0	0
CD44	100	100	100	63.2	T/ 100	0	0	0

CD46	0	0	0	0	66.2	0	0	0
	·				3			

Key: T/0 = toxic to macrophages / parasites present.

T/100 = toxic to macrophages / no parasites
present.

100+ = 100% inhibition when sampling for haemocytometer count but parasites visible in wells of 96-well plate under inverted mic.

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### CLAIMS

1. A compound having the following general structure:-

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and wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_4$  are according to any one of the following rows in the table:

LABEL	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>
CD4		ii 1	OMe	OMe

CD6	CH <sub>3</sub> CO	B 1	ОН	ОН
CD7		B 1	OMe	ОН
CD8		CH <sub>2</sub> -COOEt	ОН	ОН

CD10			OMe	OMe
CD13	H	N:	ОН	ОН
CD16	СНО		ОН	ОН
CD17			NH <sub>2</sub>	ОН

CD19			OMe	ОН
CD20			OMe	OMe
CD37	H	TCH <sub>2</sub> CH=C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH=C( CH <sub>3</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH =C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	ОН	ОН

CD42		OMe	ОН
CD43	N (1 2	OMe	OMe
CD46	-CH <sub>2</sub> -CO <sub>2</sub> Et	OMe	ОМе

CD48 CH <sub>3</sub> CO	OMe OH
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- A pharmaceutically acceptable composition for
   delivery to the human or animal body comprising a compound according to claim 1.
- A composition for the treatment of parasitic infection, which composition comprises one or more of CD7, CD19, CD20, CD42, CD43 or CD44 according to claim 1.
- A composition for the treatment of trypanosomiasis, and in particular infection by
   T. Brucei, which composition comprises one or more of CD7, CD19, CD20, CD42, CD43 and CD44 according to claim 1.
- 5. A composition as for the treatment of

  Leishmaniasis, and in particular infection by L.

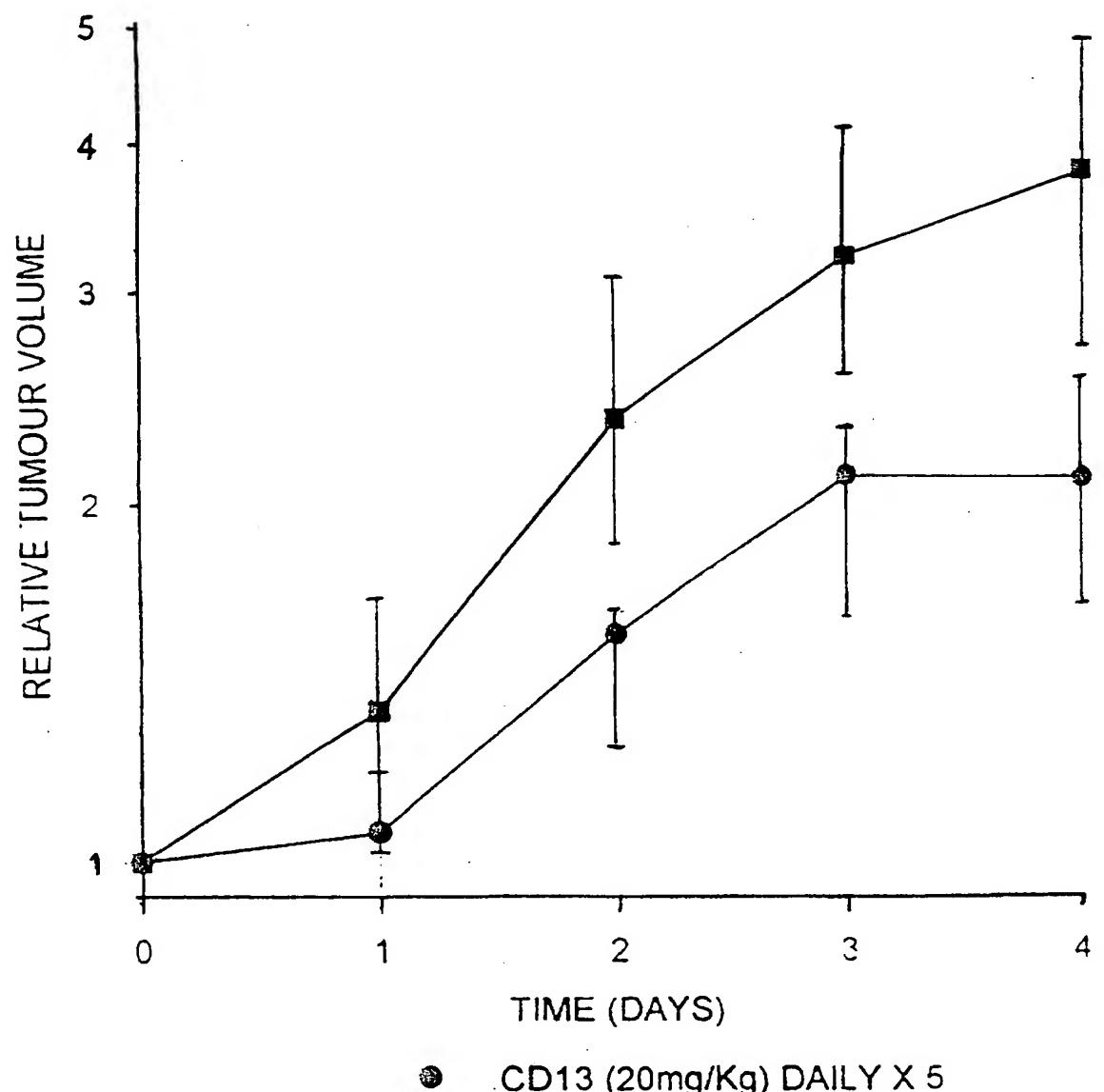
  donovani, which composition comprises one or

  more of CD20, CD42, CD43, CD44 and CD46 according

to claim 1.

- 6. A composition for the treatment of cancer, which composition comprises one or more of CD4, CD6, CD13 and CD37 according to claim 1.
- 7. A method of treating a diseased human or animal comprising administering a pharmologically effective amount of a composition as claimed in claim 2.
- 8. A method of treating parasitic infection of a human or animal comprising administering a pharmologically effective amount of a composition as claimed in any of claims 3,4 and 5.
- A method of treating cancer in a human or animal comprising administering a pharmologically effective amount of a composition as claimed in claim 6.

# MAC15A S/C TUMOURS TREATED WITH CD13 DAILY



- CD13 (20mg/Kg) DAILY X 5 UNTREATED CONTROLS

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSI IPC 6	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C07K5/02 A61K38/05		
According to	o International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national class	eification and IPC	
8. FIELDS	SEARCHED		
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